

## Spotlight on Oral Health: Give Kids a Smile Day!

Give Kids A Smile Day (GKAS) was started in 2003 by the American Dental Association to give its members a chance to provide dental services to underserved children at no cost. These services include cleaning, oral screenings, x-rays, treatment and education.

In 2013, there were more than 20 events contributing to services for GKAS across the state. Nevada has truly embraced this initiative by coordinating efforts with dental providers, hygienists, oral health professional students, local school districts and many other key stakeholders who want to see the incidence of oral health disease and untreated tooth decay decrease for youth in Nevada.

The Nevada State Health Division's Oral Health Program conducts a Behavioral

Screening Survey (BSS) annually to assess populations at disproportionate risk for dental caries. Forty-four percent of 3-5 year old children assessed did not receive dental care because their parents could not afford it. Forty-six percent of children did not get dental care because they did not have health insurance that covers it.

Nevada 2013 Give Kids a Smile provided an in-kind service for over 200 children state-wide. A percentage of those children received on-the-spot treatment and those that had further treatment needs were referred for follow up care.

If you would like Oral Health Promotion items visit the American Dental Association website for materials and activity ideas at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org).

## Upcoming Events

**May**

- Arthritis Awareness
- Skin Cancer Awareness
- High Blood Pressure Awareness
- Nevada Cancer Coalition Summit May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Atlantis

**June**

- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Convention June 26-29 at Red Rock Resort

**July**

- National Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness & Prevention Month

New to NSHD: Community Health Worker Program!

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are frontline public health workers. As trusted members of their communities, they increase community knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

Nevada currently has twelve individuals undergoing Community Health Worker training. The model Nevada is using targets the Latino population in four counties and attempts to provide links to receiving health services. The links established by the CHW will increase access to medical care and comprehensive services for the target communities. The CHWs are bilingual in Spanish and English and were carefully

selected to have an established relationship in the communities they serve.

Twelve CHWs have been selected for this pilot program; they are stationed in Carson City (4), Washoe County (3), Elko County (1) and Clark County (4). The CHWs attended a three-day conference in February led by Carl Rush, MRP, a national CHW curriculum educator, and received training in the following areas: Introduction to the CHW training program; Determinants of Health; Personal Safety; Empowerment Approach in Working with Individuals and Families; Interpersonal Communication; Boundaries in CHW Practice; and Documentation and assessments.

After the conference, the CHWs are continuing their training via weekly

distance learning. These trainings are topical and pertain to reproductive health, mental health and substance abuse. Before becoming certified, they are expected to receive training in diabetes, tobacco cessation, nutrition, public health preparedness and HIV. Upon completion of approximately 80 hours of training, each individual will be certified as a Community Health Worker. Graduation is expected by May 2013, after which the CHWs will begin working with previously identified community coalitions that have strong ties to the communities the CHW program is targeting. Each CHW is expected to reach approximately 25 families, or roughly 100 adults and children.

*For more information please contact the Nevada State Health Division Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Section at 775. 684. 4285. or at [CDPHP@health.nv.gov](mailto:CDPHP@health.nv.gov)*